



**Los Angeles County Certified Unified Program Agency  
Health Hazardous Materials Division**



# **ACCUMULATION STORAGE TIME LIMITS FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**FACT SHEET 05-04-HW**

**JUNE 2005**

This fact sheet summarizes the hazardous waste accumulation storage time limits for the three hazardous waste generator categories: large quantity generators, small quantity generators, and conditionally exempt small quantity generators. Generators are categorized primarily by their rate of hazardous waste generation (i.e., kilograms per month). The types and quantities of hazardous waste also must be evaluated to ensure that the generator is categorized correctly. This fact sheet also addresses satellite accumulation and speculative accumulation.

## **LARGE QUANTITY GENERATOR**

A business is a large quantity generator (LQG) if the business:

- Generates (in any calendar month) 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds) or more of hazardous waste; or
- Generates (in any calendar month) more than one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of extremely or acutely hazardous waste (AHW) or 100 kilograms of debris resulting from the spill of an AHW; or
- Accumulates on-site more than 6,000 kilograms (13,200 pounds) of hazardous waste at any time.

The hazardous waste accumulation storage time limit at LQG facility is 90 days. The 90-day period for accumulation starts the FIRST DAY the generator begins accumulating any hazardous waste.

## **SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR**

A business is a small quantity generator (SQG) if the business generates (in any calendar month) between 100 and 1,000 kilograms (220 and 2,200 pounds) of hazardous waste (and less than one kilogram of an AHW) and accumulates no more than 6,000 kilograms of hazardous waste onsite at any time.

The hazardous waste accumulation storage time limit at a SQG facility is 180 days. The 180-day period for accumulation starts the FIRST DAY the generator begins accumulating any hazardous waste. If the waste MUST be transported over a distance of 200 miles or more, the generator may store the waste onsite for up to 270 days. The generator cannot store an AHW in an amount greater than one kilogram (2.2 pounds) for more than 90 days.

## **CONDITIONALLY EXEMPT SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR**

A business is a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) if the business generates (in any calendar month) less than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of hazardous waste (and less than one kilogram of an AHW).

The hazardous waste accumulation storage time limit at a CESQG is 90 days. However, the 90-day period for accumulation starts once 100 kilograms of hazardous waste (or one kilogram of an AHW) have accumulated. There is no accumulation time limit at a CESQG facility that has not yet accumulated 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of hazardous waste or one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of an AHW.

# ACCUMULATION STORAGE TIME LIMITS FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

FACT SHEET 05-04-HW

PAGE 2

JUNE 2005

## SATELLITE ACCUMULATION

Satellite accumulation is the collection of hazardous waste in a container (not in a tank) located at or near the point (i.e., process or piece of equipment) where the waste is generated. The container must be under the control of the operator of the waste generation process. The general requirements for Satellite Accumulation consist of the following:

- *Quantity Limits* - No more than 55 gallons of a hazardous waste or one quart of an AHW may be accumulated at each satellite accumulation point. These limits apply to each waste stream. The generator can accumulate more than one waste in each satellite accumulation area.
- *Accumulation Time Limits* – The generator can keep a satellite accumulation container on-site for a maximum of one year from the date waste is first placed in the container, or 90 or 180 days from the date the generator accumulates 55 gallons of hazardous waste or one quart AHW, whichever occurs first.

## SPECULATIVE ACCUMULATION

A hazardous material becomes a hazardous waste if it is accumulated speculatively. Speculative accumulation means that a material is accumulated before being recycled. A material is not accumulated speculatively, however, if the person accumulating it can show that the material is potentially recyclable and has a feasible means of being recycled; and that, during the calendar year (commencing on January 1), the amount of material that is recycled, or transferred to a different site for recycling, equals at least 75% by weight (or volume) of the amount of that accumulated at the beginning of the period. Also, a generator may be considered as a speculative accumulator if retrograde materials are stored onsite for extended periods of time.

Retrograde materials are any hazardous materials that are not used or sold for use in an originally intended purpose and which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- It has undergone chemical, biochemical, physical or other changes due to the passage of time or environmental conditions under which it was stored.
- It has exceeded a specified or recommended shelf life.
- It is banned by law, regulation, ordinance or decree.
- It cannot be used for reasons of economics, health/safety or environmental hazard.

Retrograde material becomes a recyclable material if it has not been used, distributed or reclaimed through treatment one year after the date the material becomes a retrograde material (or one year after the material is returned to the original manufacturer).

---

**NOTE:** *This fact sheet is a summary of the laws and regulations pertaining to this subject. It is intended for informational purposes only and may not encompass all the laws and regulations to this topic. More details may be found at Cal/EPA Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). If further information is needed, call the County of Los Angeles CUPA at (323) 890-4045, or your local district office.*

## References

- California Health and Safety Code 25123.3(c)
- 22 California Code of Regulations 66262.34